DD Transmitters in Andhra Pradesh

2197. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Doordarshan transmitters in Andhra Pradesh that became operational during the last two years alongwith their locations;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether required staff has been provided for operation and maintenance of these transmitters;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(f) the annual estimated expenditure to be incurred on the maintenance and operation of these transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Doordarshan has operationalised five Low Power Transmitters (LPT) at Madugula, Miryalaguda, Kolhapur, Talkondapalli and Punganur and one Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT) at Mariapadu in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years.

(b) Expenditure to the tune of Rs. 4.06 crore has been incurred on the above transmitters.

(c) to (e) These transmitters could not be made fully operational due to non-availability of complement of staff for operation and maintenance purposes. These have, however, been operationalised by providing skeleton staff by redeployment from other Doordarshan Kendras and are currently in operation for limited duration. Efforts are being made to secure the required staff expeditiously.

(f) Annual estimated expenditure on the operation and maintenance of an LPT is about Rs. 15 lakh and that of a VLPT about Rs. 2 lakh.

Screening of non-Kannada films

2198. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1086 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December 2004 and to state:

(a) whether the issues involved have been satisfactorily settled; and

(b) if not, by when they are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) According to information obtained from Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, Bangalore, there is no moratorium on release of non-Kannada films in the State at present.

(b) Does not arise.

TV serials shown on private channels

2199. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the TV serials being shown on some of the private channels keep on dragging the serials for years together on the basis of conspiracies, misunderstanding and crimes;

(b) if so, whether Government have ever issued any warning or raised any objections against any of the current serials, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any Censor Board to censor the objectionable and shameful contents of the various programmes shown on TV; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Government has no role to play in programming matters of private channels. However, programmes of all private channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable and DTH Network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Action for violation of the codes is taken from time to time.

(c) There is no pre-censorship of television content. Television, as a medium, does not lend itself to such censorship.